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## IMPROVED POT AND PAN WASHING MACHINE

### 1 Field of the Invention

2 The present invention relates to improvements in a pot and pan washing machine. More  
3 specifically the present invention relates to improvements within the wash tank portion of a pot  
4 and pan washing machine, including an improved pump, improved intake manifold and improved  
5 jet nozzles for the wash tank. Additionally, the present invention relates to an improved joint and  
6 method for connecting two separate portions of a pot and pan washing machine into a single unit.

### 7

### 8 Background of the Invention

9 Pot and pan washing machines, of the type used in restaurants, institutions and other eating  
10 facilities often involve a large wash tank or basin in which water is circulated about the pots and  
11 pans to provide a washing action. One such machine is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,773,436  
12 issued to Cantrell et al., the specification of which is incorporated herein by reference. The  
13 machine of Cantrell includes a wash tank with jets located at an elevated position along the rear  
14 wall of the wash tank. The tank is filled with water to a level above the position of the jets. Pots  
15 and pans are placed in the wash tank, and a pump is activated to draw water from within the wash  
16 tank and direct it through the jets to create a jet stream. Each jet directs its jet stream toward the  
17 bottom wall of the wash tank, the bottom wall then deflects the jet stream upward and towards the  
18 front wall of the tank. The front wall then deflects the upward moving jet stream towards the rear  
19 wall of the tank, and the rear wall deflects the jet stream downward and back towards the front

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1 wall along the bottom wall. The combination of deflections of the jet stream from the bottom,  
2 front and rear walls provides a rolling washing action within the wash tank.

3 The basic components of the wash tank of the pot and pan washing machine of the prior  
4 art are shown in Fig. 1. Wash tank 10 includes side walls 12 and 14, rear wall 16, front wall 18  
5 and bottom wall 19. A pump can be attached to either side wall; in the embodiment shown in Fig.  
6 1, pump 50 is attached to right sidewall 14. An impeller located within pump 50 is driven by  
7 electric motor 56. The impeller draws fluid into pump inlet 52 through an intake port (not shown)  
8 located in sidewall 14. The fluid is then discharged from the pump through pump outlet 54 and  
9 into outlet manifold 60. —Outlet manifold 60 includes a ninety degree turn, and several other  
10 turns, to direct the fluid across the back side of rear wall 16 and out jet nozzles 20 which are  
11 protruding through and extending from rear wall 16. The intake port associated with pump inlet  
12 52 is covered by perforated intake manifold 30. Intake manifold 30 includes handle 36 and is  
13 removably supported within wash tank 10 for easy cleaning. Intake manifold 30 fits tightly  
14 between outer runner 32 and inner runner 34, each of which extends vertically from bottom wall  
15 19. Heating element 40 is positioned between intake manifold 30 and sidewall 14 for its  
16 protection and to maximize the use of space.

17 Although the prior art pot and pan washing machine disclosed in U.S. Patent No.  
18 4,773,436 provides an exceptional wash action, many of the components discussed above hinder  
19 the overall efficiency and performance of the machine. Several of the components of the prior

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1 art machine that hinder performance and efficiency are the pump, the intake manifold and the jet  
2 nozzles.

3 As discussed above, the pump of the prior art draws fluid in through pump inlet 52 in a  
4 first direction and then discharges the fluid in a direction perpendicular to the inlet direction. The  
5 path of the fluid being discharged from pump 50 must be diverted ninety degrees in a first  
6 direction, then upward and sideways across rear wall 16 to reach jet nozzles 20. Diverting the  
7 water path requires a great deal of energy, which significantly reduces the efficiency of the pump.

8 Furthermore, a substantial amount of additional outlet manifold construction is necessary to effect  
9 the diversion of the fluid path. This additional manifold construction increases the overall cost  
10 of producing the pot and pan washing machine. Thus it is desirable to provide an improved pump  
11 for a pot and pan washing machine that streamlines the fluid path of the machine.

12 Another disadvantage of the pump of the prior art is that motor 56 mounts orthogonal to  
13 sidewall 14. This increases the overall footprint of the machine from side to side. As most pot  
14 and pan washing machines are of substantial length due to the use of multiple sink basins, it is of  
15 great importance to reduce the overall footprint as much as possible to maximize the use of space  
16 in a kitchen. If a pump could be designed to orient the pump motor parallel to the side of the  
17 wash tank, the side to side footprint of the machine could be reduced, thereby maximizing usable  
18 space within the kitchen.

19 Additionally, in the event that motor 50 requires servicing, it must be removed axially  
20 from the pump. This requires a substantial amount of space to the side of the machine to facilitate

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1 the motor removal. Unfortunately, most kitchens have a limited amount of space, and the already  
2 large footprint of the pot and pan washing machine significantly restricts the amount of unused  
3 space allotted to the side of the machine. Therefore, it is desirable to provide a pump for a pot  
4 and pan washing machine which can be removed in a direction parallel to the side wall of the  
5 machine, rather than perpendicular thereto. Additionally, it is desirable to provide such a pump,  
6 without the need for an intricate manifold arrangement.

7 Another component of the pot and pan machine that reduces the overall efficiency and  
8 performance of the machine is the intake manifold. Intake manifold 30 is designed to be  
9 positioned along the side of the wash tank, reducing the usable wash area within the wash tank.

10 Also, because water is being pulled toward the side of the wash tank, pots and pans within the  
11 wash tank will tend to migrate toward the intake side. This pot migration is undesirable because  
12 it reduces the effect of the wash action of the machine as pots and pans are clumped together along  
13 one side.

14 Furthermore, the prior art intake manifold is not scalable. This is because, generally, the  
15 size of the wash tank is increased by increasing the length from side to side of the tank without  
16 changing the front to back width which makes up the width of intake manifold 30. As the size of  
17 the wash tank increases, so does the required flow rate of the pump. This results in an increased  
18 draw through the intake, thereby increasing the effects of pot migration and increasing the amount  
19 of debris collected by the intake manifold. Therefore, it is desirable to provide a scalable intake

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1 manifold that reduces the effect of pot migration and that does not result in increased manifold  
2 vacuum when the length of the wash tank is increased.

3 Another drawback of the prior art manifold is related to the purpose of the manifold, which  
4 is to prevent debris in the wash tank from reaching the pump. Much of this debris will be drawn  
5 towards and collected by the intake vacuum. Thus, intake manifold 30 is removable to allow for  
6 routine cleaning of the debris from the manifold. If the manifold is not routinely cleaned, the  
7 efficiency and performance of the pot and pan washing machine will be significantly inhibited.

8 Therefore, it is desirable to provide an intake manifold that is essentially self cleaning.

9 One final component of the prior art machine is the jet nozzle. Jet nozzle 20 protrudes  
10 from rear wall 16 of the pot and pan washing machine. Thus, the effectiveness of the jet stream  
11 on objects near the rear wall of the machine is greatly reduced since the jet stream directly exiting  
12 the nozzle initiates in a position away from the rear wall. Objects near the rear wall will only be  
13 impacted by the jet stream after it has been deflected back to the rear wall from the front wall.  
14 Therefore, it is desirable to provide a jet nozzle design that will permit the jet stream exiting the  
15 nozzle to more immediately impact objects located near the rear wall of the washing machine.

16 In addition to the wash tank, the pot and pan washing machines systems of the prior art  
17 usually include additional sink basins or work surfaces for 1) scraping and scrapping, 2) rinsing  
18 and 3) sanitizing. All basins or work areas of a washing machine system are preferably positioned  
19 along side of each other in their order of use for more efficient operation of the washing machine  
20 (the preferred order of use is scrapping/scrapping, washing, rinsing, sanitizing). Additionally,

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1 it is often more efficient, and provides a more aesthetically pleasing appearance, to construct the  
2 entire pot and pan washing machine as a single unit at the factory. Unfortunately, such is often  
3 impossible due to installation and transportation limitations.

4       Very few kitchens have entrances large enough to make installation of a four basin washing  
5 machine system as a single unit practical. Therefore most pot and pan washing machines are  
6 constructed as a two-part (or more as necessary) unit which is assembled onsite during installation.  
7 As the pot and pan washing machine is preferably constructed of stainless steel, the preferred  
8 method for joining two sections of the machine into a single unit is to weld the sections together.  
9 While welding is a rather routine method of construction at the factory, it is not very practical for  
10 onsite assembly and installation. This is due to the difficulty of transporting and operating proper  
11 welding and grinding equipment onsite to make a smooth weld. Therefore, seems that are welded  
12 onsite generally tend to have a less than desirable appearance.

13       An alternative to welding two sections of a washing machine system together is to bolt the  
14 two sections together. Most often a bolted connection is as unattractive as, or even more  
15 unattractive than, a poorly welded seem. Additionally, because a bolted connection results in a  
16 slight gap between the two sections of the washing machine system in which debris may collect,  
17 NSF standards require the inclusion of a two inch gap between the sections to facilitate cleaning.  
18 This results in a even greater reduction in the aesthetic appearance of the washing machine system  
19 and increases the size of the footprint of the system, or else reduces the usable volume of the  
20 basins. Therefore it is desirable to develop an attractive, non-welded field joint for assembling

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1 multiple components of a washing machine system into a single unit having no gaps between the  
2 joined components.

3

4 **Summary of the Invention**

5 A principal object of the present invention is to provide a cost efficient pot and pan  
6 washing machine having exceptional efficiency and performance characteristics. Another object  
7 of the present invention is to increase the efficiency and performance of a pot and pan washing  
8 machine through the use of an inventive pump. Yet another object of the present invention is to  
9 increase the efficiency and performance of the pot and pan washing machine through the use of  
10 an inventive intake manifold. Another object of the instant invention is to further increase the  
11 efficiency and performance of the pot and pan washing machine through the use of an inventive  
12 jet nozzle. A further object of the instant invention is to increase the efficiency of installation of  
13 the pot and pan washing machine through the use of an inventive field joint.

14 According to the above described objects of the instant invention, a pot and pan washing  
15 machine is provided including:

16 a wash tank including a bottom wall, a rear wall, a front wall and two side walls extending  
17 upwardly from said bottom wall;  
18 an intake port in one of said side walls, said intake port being adjacent to said bottom and  
19 rear walls;  
20 an outlet manifold on said rear wall;

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1 a self-draining parallel flow pump including:

2 a pump inlet associated with said intake port, said pump inlet having an intake path

3 in a first direction, and

4 a pump outlet associated with said outlet manifold, said pump outlet having an

5 outlet path in a second direction, said second direction being substantially

6 parallel to said first direction;

7 at least one jet nozzle in association with said outlet manifold to expel at a predetermined

8 angle a jet stream of fluid from said outlet manifold, said jet nozzle including:

9 a directing tube flush connected to said rear wall and extending into said outlet

10 manifold; and

11 a perforated intake manifold within said wash tank positioned within a portion of the jet

12 stream of said jet nozzle and positioned to cover said intake port, said intake

13 manifold including an upper portion extending in away from said rear wall towards

14 said front wall at a predetermined downward angle towards said bottom wall, and

15 said predetermined downward angle of said upper portion of said intake manifold

16 corresponds to the predetermined angle of the jet stream of said nozzle.

17 The inventive pump features a generally helical housing, having an inlet direction generally

18 parallel to the outlet or discharge direction. The parallel flow of the pump increases the efficiency

19 of the pump and thus the pot and pan washing machine by streamlining the fluid path to reduce

20 the amount of diversion of the fluid path required within the machine. In addition to increasing

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1 efficiency of operation of the machine, the use of a parallel flow pump increases the cost  
2 efficiency of producing the pot and pan washing machine by significantly reducing the amount of  
3 additional manifold tubing required to divert the fluid path.

4 The generally helical design of the pump housing of the instant invention permits the pump  
5 motor to be mounted parallel to the side of the pot and pan washing machine. By mounting the  
6 pump motor in this manner, the side to side footprint of the pot and pan washing machine is  
7 significantly reduced. Additionally, the orientation of the motor relative to the housing permits  
8 easy removal of the pump motor from the pump housing, even in confined spaces, because the  
-9- pump motor is removed in a direction parallel to the side of the pot and pan washing machine.

10 Another object of the instant invention is to provide an improved pump that increases  
11 sanitation and improves pump life. In accordance with this objective, the pump of the instant  
12 invention is self-draining. The generally helical housing of the inventive pump includes a raise  
13 volute and a lower intake chamber. An intake port, or pump inlet, is located in the chamber, and  
14 an outlet port, or pump outlet, is located in the volute. A portion of the pump inlet comprises the  
15 lower most position of the pump housing, permitting fluid to flow, by gravity, from the chamber  
16 through the pump inlet and into the wash tank. A drainage passage extends from the lower most  
17 portion of the raised volute to the lower chamber, allowing for complete drainage of the volute  
18 into the chamber and thereby into the wash tank.

19 The intake manifold of the instant invention is positioned along the length of the rear wall  
20 of the washing machine. This position provides several unique advantages to that of the prior art.

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1 Firstly, the intake manifold is positioned in relatively dead space along the bottom of the rear wall  
2 of the wash tank, rather than in usable wash space along the side wall of the wash tank. This  
3 space is considered "dead" space because it is the last space impacted by the deflected jet stream.  
4 Furthermore, since the side to side length of the wash tank is usually greater than the front to back  
5 width, the intake manifold of the instant invention can provide the same intake area as the prior  
6 art manifold while having a lower profile. Additionally, the inventive intake manifold can be  
7 contoured to assist in the rolling wash action of the pot and pan washing machine by gradually  
8 deflecting the path of the jet stream downward and forward. In the prior art pot and pan washing  
9 machine, the ~~seem-between-the-rear-wall-and-the-bottom-wall-is-filletted-or-rolled-to-assist-in-the~~  
10 rolling wash action of the machine. The intake manifold of the instant invention can be used to  
11 perform this function.

12 Positioning the intake manifold along the rear wall of the washing machine allows the  
13 manifold to be scalable to any size machine. This is because the size of the machine is usually  
14 increased or decreased through the addition or removal of jets along the length of the rear wall  
15 of the machine and the increase or decrease of the rear wall length. The width from front to back  
16 of the machine is usually unaltered regardless of machine size. Thus, as the length of the machine  
17 increases, so does the length of the intake manifold and the proportional intake area. As higher  
18 volume motors are used with the larger wash tanks, the intake vacuum will remain unchanged due  
19 to the increased intake area.

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1 Another advantage of the position of the intake of the instant invention is that the intake  
2 area can be significantly increased from the intake area of the prior art machine. This reduces the  
3 suction or vacuum levels, resulting in more efficient cleaning of pots and pans and elimination of  
4 pot migration. The reduced suction will also reduce the amount of debris that collects on the  
5 intake manifold, virtually eliminating the need to routinely remove and clean the manifold as  
6 required by the design of the prior art. Any minor pot migration that might exist will be toward  
7 the rear wall, eliminating the clumping effect associated with the prior art. Additionally, pot  
8 migration toward the rear wall will be counterbalanced with the force of the jet stream and the  
9 rolling wash action, resulting in a more efficient wash action.

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10 The intake manifold of the instant invention is positioned within a portion of the jet stream  
11 emanating from the jet nozzle. This effectively blows off any debris that may collect on the intake  
12 manifold, making the manifold virtually self-cleaning. The use of flush mounted jet nozzles  
13 assists in this cleaning action by positioning the full force of the initial, non-deflected jet stream  
14 closer to the rear wall of the machine than that provided by the prior art. The angle of the intake  
15 manifold roughly corresponds to the angle of the jet stream emanating from the jet nozzle to  
16 prevent substantial deflection of the jet stream by the intake manifold before the jet stream reaches  
17 the bottom wall of the wash tank.

18 An inventive field joint and method is provided for assembling multiple portions or  
19 segments of the pot and pan washing machine into a single unit without the use of either a welded  
20 or a bolted connection. This inventive field joint increases the usable basin volume within a given

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1 footprint by eliminating the NSF required gap. The inventive field joint includes a hemmed edge  
2 located along an edge of a generally flat side of a first sink basin, and a lip located along an edge  
3 of a generally flat side of a second sink basin. A jog extends inward from one of the generally  
4 flat sides of the first or second sink basins such that the edge of the associated sink basin extends  
5 inward of the generally flat side of that sink basin. The lip is positioned over the hemmed edge  
6 forcing the generally flat sides of the first and second sink basins into tight engagement with one  
7 another. The inwardly extending jog assures tight engagement of the generally flat sides of the  
8 sink basins without any gap therebetween; thus providing an attractive, non-welded seem. The  
9 outer sides of the sink basins that have been joined together can be covered with a decorative trim  
10 piece to enhance the aesthetically pleasing appearance of the washing machine.

11 The foregoing and other objects are intended to be illustrative of the invention and are not  
12 meant in a limiting sense. Many possible embodiments of the invention may be made and will  
13 be readily evident upon a study of the following specification and accompanying drawings  
14 comprising a part thereof. Various features and subcombinations of invention may be employed  
15 without reference to other features and subcombinations. Other objects and advantages of this  
16 invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the  
17 accompanying drawings, wherein is set forth by way of illustration and example, an embodiment  
18 of this invention.

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INVENTOR: INCITALI, INC.  
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### Description of the Drawings

Preferred embodiments of the invention, illustrative of the best modes in which the applicant has contemplated applying the principles, are set forth in the following description and are shown in the drawings and are particularly and distinctly pointed out and set forth in the appended claims.

Figure 1 is a perspective view from above of a prior art pot and pan washing machine with a portion of the front and one side wall of the wash tank cut away to better illustrate certain construction details.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view from above of the pot and pan washing machine instant invention.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective elevation view taken from the left hand side of the hand pan washing machine shown in Fig. 2.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary rear elevation view of the pot and pan washing machine of the present invention.

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1       Figure 5 is an exploded perspective view of an inventive pump for the pot and pan washing  
2       machine of the instant invention.

3

4       Figure 6 is a perspective view taken from above of the housing of the pump shown in Fig.  
5       5, showing the interior of the pump housing.

6

7       Figure 7 is a detailed perspective view taken from the side of a flush mounted jet nozzle  
8       for the pot and pan washing machine shown in Fig. 2, showing the outlet manifold and rear wall  
9       of the washing machine in section and partial cutaway.

10

11       Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional view showing a non-welded field joint for connecting  
12       multiple portions of a pot and pan washing machine.

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## Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring to the drawing figures, therein is shown an optimum form of the subject pot and pan washing machine with essentially all features usable to increase performance, versatility and efficiency therewithin. Preferred embodiments of the present invention are hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

The operation of the pot and pan washing machine described hereinafter is substantially similar to the operation of the prior art machine described above. The instant invention provides significant features that increase the performance, versatility and efficiency of the pot and pan washing machine.

Referring to Fig. 2, a preferred embodiment of the wash tank of the inventive pot and pan washing machine is shown. The wash tank/basin of the instant invention is constructed in essentially the same manner as the wash tanks of the prior art. Wash tank 110 includes left side wall 112, right side wall 114, rear wall 116, front wall 118 and bottom wall 119 constructed in the same or similar manner, and of the same or similar materials as the wash tank of the prior art. Figure 2 shows the unique components of the pot and pan washing machine as they are located in association with wash tank 110. Parallel flow pump 150 is attached to left side wall 112 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 2. As has been discussed with respect to the prior art, pump 150 can be attached to either left side wall 112 or right side wall 114 of wash tank 110. Flush mounted jet nozzles 120 are mounted along rear wall in essentially the same location as the jet nozzles of

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1 the prior art discussed above. Intake manifold 130 is mounted within wash tank 110 along the  
2 bottom portion of rear wall 116, below nozzles 120.

3

4 *Parallel Flow Pump*

5 Figures 3 and 4 show pump 150 mounted to the exterior of wash tank 110. Although  
6 pump 150 of the preferred embodiment is constructed entirely of stainless steel; any suitable  
7 material can be used. Pump inlet 152 associates with and connects to an intake port (not  
8 shown) passing through right side wall 112. Pump outlet 154 associates with and connects to  
9 outlet manifold 160. Outlet manifold 160 comprises a generally straight tube that extends  
10 across the exterior side of rear wall 116 to connect pump outlet 154 to jet nozzles 120. The  
11 outlet manifold of the disclosed embodiment comprises a square or rectangular cross-section;  
12 however, the tubing of the outlet manifold can comprise a cross-section of virtually any shape.  
13 Pump motor 156 protrudes axially from the pump housing in a direction generally parallel to  
14 right side wall 112.

15 Fluid is drawn into pump inlet 152 in a first inlet direction that is generally orthogonal  
16 to side wall 112. The fluid is then discharged from pump outlet 154 in a second direction that  
17 is generally parallel to the inlet direction. The fluid is discharged directly into outlet manifold  
18 160 which extends in the direction of the fluid path. Because the fluid is not diverted by the  
19 outlet manifold, the efficiency of the pump is greatly increased.

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1                   Figure 5 shows an exploded view of pump 150 assembly of the instant invention.  
2                   Rotatable shaft 158 extends axially from the inner end of pump motor 156. Generally annular  
3                   seal plate 180 fits over shaft 158 for engagement with the inner end of pump motor 156. The  
4                   seal plate is bolted or otherwise fastened to the inner end of pump motor 156. After seal plate  
5                   180 is associated with the pump motor, annular shaft seal 184 is positioned along shaft 158 in  
6                   close engagement with seal plate 180. Impeller 186 is positioned on the end of shaft 158 in  
7                   contact with seal 184, and bolt 188 is inserted through the center of impeller 186 and into  
8                   threaded engagement with interior threads of shaft 158. The bolt is torqued to provides tight  
9                   engagement of the impeller with the shaft and seal 184 resulting in a water-tight enclosure  
10                  surrounding shaft 158.

11                  Once the impeller, seal and seal plate are properly connected to motor 156, the entire  
12                  assembly (motor, seal plate, seal and impeller) can be connected to the pump housing. Pump  
13                  housing 155 is a generally helical housing including intake chamber 192 and raised volute 194.  
14                  A cylindrical passage extends axially through both chamber 192 and volute 194 of housing  
15                  155. Volute 194 is in an axially raised position relative to chamber 192. The motor assembly  
16                  is inserted, impeller first, into cylindrical passage 190 of housing 155. Impeller 186 will  
17                  extend into volute 194. Anti-rotational cross-member 182 extends from seal plate 180 into  
18                  chamber 192 in a direction generally perpendicular to the seal plate. Seal plate 180 is bolted or  
19                  otherwise attached to housing 155 to provide a water tight seal between the housing and motor  
20                  156.

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1           As is shown in Fig. 6, drainage passage 196 extends from the lower most portion of  
2           volute 194 into chamber 192. The lower most wall of the chamber angles downward toward  
3           inlet 152. As is shown in Fig. 4, the pump is mounted to the wash tank such that the bottom  
4           portion of intake port 152 is the lower most position of pump housing 155. Therefore, when  
5           the pump motor is not operating, gravitational forces will drive all water within volute 194  
6           through drainage passage 196, into chamber 192, down the lower wall of chamber 192 and out  
7           pump inlet 152 into the wash tank. Thus the pump of the preferred embodiment is self-  
8           draining when not in use. This provides for improved sanitary conditions and increased pump  
9           life.

10           In operation, A/C motor 156 is energized to rotate shaft 158. Shaft 158 rotates  
11           impeller 186. The impeller has an enclosed face which results in shaft-side suction for the  
12           impeller. Water is drawn into chamber 192 from the shaft side of impeller 186. The impeller  
13           creates a rotational movement of fluid within chamber 192. Anti-rotation member 182 directs  
14           the rotating fluid from the chamber into volute 194. The fluid is thrust into volute 194  
15           through the vanes of the rotating impeller. Volute 194 directs the fluid outward where it is  
16           discharged into outlet manifold 160.

17           The motor, seal plate, shaft seal and impeller can be removed as a single unit for easy  
18           servicing. Because the pump motor extends axially from the housing, and parallel to the side  
19           of the wash tank, the motor assembly can be easily removed and replaced regardless of space  
20           limitations to the side of the wash tank.

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## *Intake Manifold and Flush Mounted Jet Nozzles*

Intake manifold 130 is shown installed within wash tank 110 in Fig. 2. Intake manifold 130 includes an upper portion 132 extending outwardly from rear wall 116 toward front wall 118, and lower portion 134 extending from the front end of upper portion 132. In the preferred embodiment, the upper portion of intake manifold 130 is angled downward from rear wall 116. The downward angle of the upper portion of intake manifold 130 corresponds to the downward angle of jet nozzle 120 which directs a fluid path toward the front portion of bottom wall 119 as described above with respect to the prior art washing machine.

9                   Portions of the intake manifold are perforated to allow fluid to be drawn into manifold  
10                   130 by the pump. The amount of perforations can vary depending upon the amount of vacuum  
11                   desired and the flow rate of the pump. Increasing the number and size of the perforations will  
12                   result in a decreased vacuum and increased efficiency. Perforations can be located only on  
13                   upper portion 132, only on lower portion 134, or on both upper portion 132 and lower portion  
14                   134.

15 The jet nozzles of the preferred embodiment are flush mounted to rear wall 116 of the  
16 wash tank. An annular outer ring 122 is mounted to rear wall 116 on the inner side of the  
17 wash tank. Directing tube 126 extends from an inner circumference of outer ring 122, through  
18 a hole in rear wall 116 and into outlet manifold 160. The directing tube diverts the fluid path  
19 moving through the outlet manifold into a jet stream. The directing tube has a predetermined  
20 angle to direct the jet stream toward the front portion of bottom wall 119. Semi-circular

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1 splash shield 124 extends in a generally orthogonal direction from outer ring 122. The outer  
2 ring can be mounted to rear wall 116 with any suitable means, including bolts or screws. In  
3 the preferred embodiment, threaded shafts 128 extend from outer ring 122 in a generally  
4 perpendicular direction through rear wall 116. Bolts can be threaded onto threaded shafts 128  
5 from the outer side of rear wall 116, leaving jet nozzle 120 with a clean, unobstructed surface  
6 inside the wash tank. In an alternate embodiment, directing tube 126 can be mounted directly  
7 to the rear wall of the wash tank by welding or any other suitable means of connection.

8 In the preferred embodiment of the instant invention, upper portion 132 of the intake  
9 manifold is positioned within the fluid path of nozzle 120. The jet stream from flush mounted  
10 nozzle 120 impacts the intake manifold at a position generally near rear wall 116 and skims  
11 across the surface of the upper portion of intake manifold 130. Intake manifold 130 is thereby  
12 self-cleaning in that jet nozzle 120 blows any debris away from the perforations of the intake  
13 manifold. The preferred embodiment of the intake manifold includes the upper and lower  
14 portions that are connected to rear wall 116 and bottom wall 119, respectively to form an  
15 inclosure within the intake manifold. Additional walls can be utilized if it is not desired to  
16 have the intake manifold connected to both the rear and bottom walls. The intake manifold  
17 can be made removable in a manner similar to that of the prior art; however, since the  
18 preferred embodiment is self-cleaning (described above), the inventive intake manifold can be  
19 permanently connect within the wash tank using any means known in the art. A heater can be  
20 positioned within the intake inclosure for safety and protection.

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**TITLE: IMPROVED POT AND PAN WASHING MACHINE**

1 In operation, wash tank 110 is filled full of water, soap and pots and pans to a level  
2 above jet nozzles 120. The soapy water, or fluid is drawn through the perforations in intake  
3 manifold 130 by pump 150. The fluid enters pump 150 through inlet 152 in a first direction  
4 that is generally parallel to rear wall 116. The fluid is discharged from the pump through  
5 outlet 154 into outlet manifold 160. Jet nozzle 120 diverts the fluid from the outlet manifold  
6 into a jet stream directed toward the front portion of bottom wall 119. The jet stream skims  
7 across the upper portion of intake manifold 130 as it travels from the jet nozzle to the bottom  
8 wall of the wash tank. The jet stream is deflected from bottom wall into a wash action in a  
9 manner substantially similar to that of the prior art.

10 The pot and pan washing machine of the instant invention and its components are all  
11 preferably constructed of stainless steel to increase the life of the machine; however, any other  
12 suitable material known in the art may also be utilized.

### *Non-Welded Field Joint*

15                   Figure 8 shows the non-welded field joint of the instant invention. Field joint 200 is  
16                   utilized to connect two separate sink portions of a pot and pan washing machine system  
17                   together as a single unit. The sink portions that can be connected by the inventive field joint  
18                   include but are not limited to sink basin to sink basin, sink basin to counter top, and counter  
19                   top to counter top.

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1           In Fig. 8, field joint 200 is used to provide a sink basin to sink basin connection.  
2           Hemmed edge 214 is formed along an edge of a generally flat side, 212, of first sink basin  
3           210. Lip 224 is formed along an edge of a generally flat side, 222, of second sink basin 220.  
4           Jog 230 is located generally near the edge of side 222 and extends inwardly, towards the inside  
5           of sink basin 220 and positions lip 224 generally inward of side 222. (alternatively, the  
6           inwardly extending jog could be located near the edge of side 212 to position hemmed edge  
7           214 generally inward of side 212).

8           During an installation, the two sink basins are brought together into close engagement  
9           with one another. Lip 224 is positioned over hemmed edge 214 such that lip 224 surrounds  
10          hemmed edge 214. The displacement caused by inwardly extending jog 230 will result in  
11          forcing side 212 and side 222 into tight engagement with one another.

12          No gaps will be present where the generally flat portions of sides 212 and 222 are  
13          brought into engagement. Nevertheless, gap 240 will be present between the inwardly  
14          extended portion of jog 230 and the generally flat portion of side 212. This gap can be filled  
15          with silicon or some other suitable sealant during installation. Other gaps may exist where  
16          surfaces that are not flat coincide with the flat portions of sides 212 and 222. For example,  
17          gap 250 is formed where the bottom side of sink basing 220 coincides with sides 212 and 222.  
18          This gap can also be filled with silicon. Additionally, trim piece 260 can be attached to sink  
19          basin 220 using 3M<sup>TM</sup> VHB<sup>TM</sup> tape, or any other suitable adhesive that is known in the art.

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1 Additional trim pieces may be utilized to conceal the field joint and thus increase the aesthetic  
2 appearance of the assembly.

3 In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness and  
4 understanding; but no unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the  
5 requirements of the prior art, because such terms are used for descriptive purposes and are  
6 intended to be broadly construed. Moreover, the description and illustration of the inventions  
7 is by way of example, and the scope of the inventions is not limited to the exact details shown  
8 or described.

9 Certain changes may be made in embodying the above invention, and in the  
10 construction thereof, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is  
11 intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying  
12 drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not meant in a limiting sense.

13 Having now described the features, discoveries and principles of the invention, the  
14 manner in which the inventive pot and pan washing machine is constructed and used, the  
15 characteristics of the construction, and advantageous, new and useful results obtained; the new  
16 and useful structures, devices, elements, arrangements, parts and combinations, are set forth in  
17 the appended claims.

18 It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the  
19 generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope  
of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.